



F**O**cuses on Housing

A Monthly Bulletin Summarizing MSHDA Housing News

March 2002

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THE NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE (NHC) ANNOUNCES THE PUBLICATION OF A NEW REPORT DOCUMENTING THE HOUSING NEEDS OF WORKING FAMILIES

The report, *Housing America's Working Families: A Further Exploration*, contains new and important findings on the housing needs of working families. It is the third in a series that began in June 2000 with the release of *Housing America's Working Families*, and followed in June 2001 with *Paycheck to Paycheck: Working Families and the Cost of Housing in America*. Highlights of the recent report: One out of every seven American households (13 million) has a critical housing need. These families spend more than 50 percent of their income for housing and/or live in severely substandard conditions. Rising housing costs is the primary culprit, affecting both homeowners and renters in both urban and suburban areas. The high cost of housing is concentrated in two dozen "hot spots" and range from \$734 to \$1,167 (in 1999). To view *Housing America's Working Families: A Further Exploration*, visit NHC's website, www.nhc.org, or call (202) 466-2121.

MEDIA FLASHES

REBUILDING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, ONE LOT AT A TIME

Lt. Governor Dick Posthumus recently announced the ownership transfer of 237 state properties to 13 Detroit area non-profit organizations and the city of Detroit for the purpose of building new or rehabilitating existing family homes. In addition, Posthumus announced the transfer of 190 side lot properties to neighbors around the city. This is the second property transfer under the *RevitaLife* program, an initiative started to facilitate ownership transfer to groups committed to rebuilding on state-owned, blighted properties in Metro Detroit. Currently, the state of Michigan has an inventory of more than 10,000 tax-reverted properties. Through *RevitaLife*, many of these properties have become available to non-profit organizations and neighboring homeowners for the purpose of rehabilitating existing structures, constructing new homes and creating neighborhood parks, gardens and other amenities that improve the quality of life for residents.

Just a Reminder – We have a standing offer for any members of the media who would like to have MSHDA staff either appear on radio talk shows or television news broadcasts, or provide guest columns or articles for publications. Raising public awareness for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the state of Michigan's many affordable housing options is always a well-received subject in any news medium, and we would welcome any opportunities you can provide.

Annual Report Available – The 35th anniversary issue of MSHDA's 2001 annual report is printed and available. To obtain a copy of the report, contact MSHDA's Communications Office at (517) 335-2006 and one will be mailed to you.

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Fourth Annual Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing Planned for June – Planning is well under way for this year's affordable housing conference to be held at the Lansing Center June 10 - 12, 2002. The 2nd largest of its kind in the nation, the conference theme this year is "Partners Building Communities." MSHDA and 27 partners committed to furthering the affordable housing cause in Michigan are planning the 2002 conference that will feature five informative learning tracks which include a wide range of breakout sessions, national keynote speakers, unique entertainment, and more. More than 1,200 attendees from around the state are expected to attend, and we invite all members of the media to attend as well. For further information or to make a media request or recommendation, please contact the Communications Office at (517) 335-2006.

MSHDA GRANTS

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Contact Telephone #</u>
Charlevoix County/CDBG	\$144,000	231-547-7200
Emmet County/CDBG/	\$200,000	231-348-1731
New Life Home for Recovering Alcoholic Women/ Critical Needs/Wayne County	\$ 10,000	313-245-4357
Women's Resource Center/Critical Needs/ Grand Traverse	\$ 10,000	231-941-1210
Newaygo County/HOME	\$360,000	231-689-2100
NCCS Center/HOME/Newago County	\$700,000	231-924-0641
Housing & CDC/HOME/Newaygo County	\$388,800	313-865-9365
City of Three Rivers/HOME/St. Joseph County	\$252,000	616-273-1075
NSO/Homeless Development/Wayne County	\$ 55,500	313-832-3100
Bethany House Ministries/Homeless Development /Muskegon	\$ 4,700	231-829-3117
Jackson County/Housing Resource Fund/Jackson	\$ 10,000	517-783-2861
Ingham County/Housing Resouce Fund	\$145,000	517-485-9100

MSHDA'S MARCH SINGLE FAMILY AND PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT PRODUCTION

	<u>Number of Housing Units</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Single Family	177	\$12,259,652
Michigan Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC)	105	\$ 7,837,900
Property Improvement Program (PIP)	15	\$ 124,415

MSHDA PUBLICATIONS

MSHDA Focuses on Housing is published and distributed monthly. To add your name to the mailing list for this publication or any others available through MSHDA, contact the Governmental & Public Relations Office at (517) 335-2006; or visit the MSHDA Web site at www.mshda.org and let us know what you think by submitting your comments and questions at the "Drop Us A Line" section.